

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of augmenting digital rights management,
5 the method comprising:
 - associating a first field with an electronic document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic document; and
 - associating a second field with the electronic
10 document, wherein the second field contains information about previous ownership of the electronic document; and
 - wherein access control software allows access to the property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the access control software restricts use of the electronic property to the person identified as the current owner.
- 20 3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying the electronic property's manufacturer in case of property rights violations.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
25 if ownership of the electronic document is transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:
 - in the first field, replacing the current owner's name with the subsequent owner's name; and
 - in the second field, adding information about
30 the subsequent owner.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising allowing access to the property by the subsequent owner only after the current owner has electronically signed an entry identifying the subsequent owner.

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6. The method according to claim 4, further comprising storing the information associated with the ownership transfer in a backup server.

10 7. The method according to claim 4, further comprising sending notice of the transfer of ownership to the electronic property's manufacturer.

15 8. The method according to claim 4, wherein the subsequent owner inherits the same access privileges as the current owner.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
if use of the electronic document is temporarily
20 loaned by the current owner to a borrower:
associating a third field with the electronic
document, wherein the third field identifies the current
borrower of the electronic document and designates the
duration of the time period of the loan; and
25 wherein access control software allows borrower
access to the property only during the duration of the
loan period.

30 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein access control hardware restricts access to the electronic property to the person identified as borrower.

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11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the current owner cannot access the electronic property during the duration of the loan period.
- 5 12. The method according to claim 9, further comprising storing the information about the loan in a backup server.
- 10 13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the current owner may simultaneously loan the electronic property to multiple borrowers.
- 15 14. The method according to claim 9, further comprising sending notice of the loan to the electronic property's manufacturer.
- 20 15. The method according to claim 9, wherein the borrower acquires a specified portion of the owner's access privileges.
16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the property title is stored in the same file with the digital property itself.
- 25 17. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for augmenting digital rights management, the computer program product comprising:
instructions for associating a first field with an
30 electronic document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic document; and

instructions for associating a second field with the electronic document, wherein the second field contains information about previous ownership of the electronic document; and

5 wherein access control software allows access to the property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access.

10 18. The computer program product according to claim 17,
10 wherein the access control software restricts use of the
electronic property to the person identified as the
current owner.

15 19. The computer program product according to claim 17,
15 further comprising instructions for notifying the
electronic property's manufacturer in case of property
rights violations.

20 20. The computer program product according to claim 17,
20 further comprising:

 if ownership of the electronic document is
transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:

 instructions for replacing the current owner's
name with the subsequent owner's name in the first field;

25 and

 instructions for adding information about the
subsequent owner in the second field.

30 21. The computer program product according to claim 20,
30 further comprising instructions for allowing access to

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the property by the subsequent owner only after the current owner has electronically signed an entry identifying the subsequent owner.

- 5 22. The computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising instructions for storing the information associated with the ownership transfer in a backup server.
- 10 23. The computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising instructions for sending notice of the transfer of ownership to the electronic property's manufacturer.
- 15 24. The computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the subsequent owner inherits the same access privileges as the current owner.
- 20 25. The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising:
 if use of the electronic document is temporarily loaned by the current owner to a borrower:
 instructions for associating a third field with the electronic document, wherein the third field identifies
25 the current borrower of the electronic document and designates the duration of the time period of the loan;
 and
 wherein access control software allows borrower access to the property only during the duration of the
30 loan period.

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26. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein access control hardware restricts access to the electronic property to the person identified as borrower.
- 5 27. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the current owner cannot access the electronic property during the duration of the loan period.
- 10 28. The computer program product according to claim 25, further comprising instructions for storing the information about the loan in a backup server.
- 15 29. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the current owner may simultaneously loan the electronic property to multiple borrowers.
30. The computer program product according to claim 25, further comprising instructions for sending notice of the loan to the electronic property's manufacturer.
- 20 31. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the borrower acquires a specified portion of the owner's access privileges.
- 25 32. The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the property title is stored in the same file with the digital property itself.
- 30 33. A system for augmenting digital rights management, the method comprising:

a first register which associates a first field with an electronic document, wherein the first field identifies a current owner of the electronic document; and

5 a second register which associates a second field with the electronic document, wherein the second field contains information about previous ownership of the electronic document; and

10 wherein access control software allows access to the property only upon verification that a user satisfies specified requirements for access.

34. The system according to claim 33, further comprising:

15 if ownership of the electronic document is transferred from the current owner to a subsequent owner:
 a first updating component which replaces the current owner's name with the subsequent owner's name in the first field; and

20 a second updating component which adds information about the subsequent owner in the second field.

35. The system according to claim 33, further comprising:

25 if use of the electronic document is temporarily loaned by the current owner to a borrower:
 a third register which associates a third field with the electronic document, wherein the third field

30 identifies the current borrower of the electronic document and designates the duration of the time period of the loan; and

wherein access control software allows borrower access to the property only during the duration of the loan period.

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